

4. The process of claim 1 wherein the particle size of the ceramic fine particles is 10 μm or less.

5. The process of claim 1 wherein the ceramics short fibers and/or the whiskers are those of an oxide, a carbide, a nitride, an oxynitride or a boride.

6. The process of claim 1 wherein the ceramics short fibers and/or the whiskers are those of Al_2O_3 , ZrO_2 , SiC , SiN_4 , BN or sialon.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein the ceramics short fibers and/or the whiskers have an aspect ratio of 5 or more.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein component (D-1) is used in an amount of 5 to 60 volume % in the composite sintered body.

9. The process of claim 1 wherein component (D-2) is used in an amount of 5 to 50 volume % in the composite sintered body.

10. The process of claim 1 wherein components (D-1) and (D-2) are used together in a total amount of 10 to 60 volume % in the composite sintered body.

11. The process of claim 1 wherein the gel after the drying and before the molding is either powdered and then heat-treated, or heat-treated and then powdered.

12. The process of claim 11 wherein the heat treatment is carried out at a temperature lower than the sintering temperature and equal to or higher than 200° C.

13. The process of claim 1 wherein the sintering is carried out at 800° to 1300° C.

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